



Urban District Council of Northwich.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,


AND

Vital Statistics, &c.,

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1906.

NORTHWICH :

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NORTHWICH URBAN DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1906.

Population at Census, 1901	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,608
„ Estimated to middle of 1906	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,000
Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,758
Birth Rate per 1,000 living	..	..	..	..	..	..	27·3
Death „ „ „ „	..	..	..	..	..	..	12·8
„ „ from seven principal Zymotic Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	1·7
Deaths under 1 year, to 1,000 Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	140

The Urban District and Township of Northwich now includes what were formerly the parishes of Witton-cum-Twambrooks, Northwich, and Castle-Northwich, and parts of the parishes of Hartford, Leftwich and Winnington, and its population estimated to the middle of 1906 is 19,000; an increase of 250 over the population of 1905. The excess of births over deaths is 304, while the average yearly excess is 268. The birth rate continues to be more than double the death rate.

Births.—The total number of births registered is 520, being one more than last year's, 253 being males and 267 females; the rate per 1,000 is 27·3, which is 4·5 less than the 10 years' average.

The number of illegitimate births is 29, which is to say that 5½% of the children born are illegitimate; of these 13 were males and 16 females, and the rate per 1,000 living is 1·5.

Supplementary Table I shows the number of each sex during each quarter and also the rate per 1,000.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered during the year is 256; of which 21 occurred in the Union Workhouse and 5 in the Victoria Infirmary. In addition to these there were 18 deaths in these two institutions of persons belonging to other districts, and

2 persons belonging to this district have died in public institutions in other districts. The corrected death rate is equal to 12·8 per 1,000 of the population.

Of these 256 deaths, 73 were infants under 1 year, and 58 were persons over 65 years of age.

Thirty-three were due to zymotic diseases: Influenza caused 3, enteritis 9, puerperal fever 2, septic diseases 2, phthisis 13; other tubercular diseases 9, and other lung diseases 41; child birth caused 2, premature birth 8, alcoholism 4, venereal disease 2, heart disease 16, and old age 29, the remainder being from various other causes.

Inquests were held upon 18 deaths, 1 being a suicide, 7 accidents chiefly falls, 1 from ptomaine poisoning, and the rest from diseases or natural causes, except 1 newly-born infant which died from inattention at birth.

Illigitimacy.—There were 10 deaths of illegitimate children: 7 females and 3 males. One was an orphan and died at 19 days of age from Diarrhœa. One had its mother described as a char-woman; and the remaining 8 had theirs described as domestic servants. Two children died from congenital syphilis, and the rest from either diarrhœa or marasmus, a very significant fact.

Infantile Mortality.—The number of children who died before reaching one year of age was 72, which is well below the 10 years' average, but an increase of 12 upon last year. The rate per 1,000 births is 140, which is equivalent to saying that more than a fourth of all the deaths are of infants under one year.

There were 21 of these deaths from zymotic diseases, 2 being whooping cough and 19 diarrhœa; and another 9 died from gastrointestinal diseases; 12 died from premature birth, injuries and malformation at birth; 12 from wasting diseases, 4 from tubercular diseases, and the remainder from various other causes. The details of which are fully shown in Table V.

During the first month 20 of these children died, and 12 during the second—*i.e.*, that of all the infants who fail to reach one year of age, nearly half die during the first two months of their existence.

Zymotic Diseases.—The total number of infectious diseases notified was 98; the numbers during each of the 4 quarters were respectively 27, 17, 13 and 41. Exactly half of these were diphtheria which has been prevalent throughout the year, but more especially during the last quarter.

Infants under one year have escaped, and it is most probable that the schools are the largest determining factor in the spread of the disease; 12 of these diphtheria cases were removed to Hospital, and 7 have proved fatal.

Erysipelas has accounted for 10 of these cases, 1 being an infant under 1 year which died, and the other 9 being aged from 25 to 65 years. None of these were removed to Hospital.

Scarlet fever has 33 notifications, and the disease has been general throughout the district; it is of an exceedingly mild type, and no deaths have occurred. Three of these were removed to Hospital.

Of typhoid fever there were 5 cases, all of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

There was only one case of puerperal fever notified, that was a young woman only 18 years of age, who died within a few days of her confinement.

The total number of cases removed to Hospital was 20.

Bacteriological Diagnosis.—There were 46 reports received from Professor Delepine, 3 of typhoid and 43 of diphtheria; of these, 2 were negative and one affirmation of typhoid fever, while 29 were affirmations and 14 negatives of diphtheria; of these all the affirmations were notified also, 3 of the diphtheria and 1 of the enteric negatives were notified.

Isolation Hospital.—The Joint Hospital at Leftwich has accommodated 20 cases sent from this Urban District, 12 being diphtheria, 3 scarlet fever, and 5 typhoid fever.

Private Street Works.—There is a large batch of these to be done this year, and the need for it has been acute, some of the roads being almost impassable in wet weather. The streets which are about to be taken in hand at once are:—Sydney street, Parliament street, Gladstone street, Park street, Pleasant street, Zion street, Chapel street (part of), Beeston street, David street, Ryder street, St. James' street, Weaver road, Dock road, Limekiln lane, and the back passages between Oak street and Ash street, the cross street between Greenall and Victoria roads, and James' street (part of).

Water Supply.—There has been considerable shortage of water during the year, and the Council have sunk another bore-hole at Cote Brook to a depth of 410 feet, which is yielding 38,600 gallons per diem; this has however decreased the flow from the other bore-holes, which reduces the actual increased yield to 25,000 gallons per diem.

The reservoir at Heyswood was persistently at a low ebb during the summer, which was possibly due to leakage from broken mains; but nevertheless it created great inconvenience and danger, as the

mains had to be shut-off at night and were frequently not full again for nearly 24 hours. The construction of another reservoir is a step which ought to be seriously considered.

Housing of Working Classes.—In the Inspector's Report at the end of this book, it will be seen that 26 cases of overcrowding were dealt with, and the sequel is also described. In the same Report, it will be seen that six houses were condemned as unfit for habitation, and eleven others became derelict from subsidence.

For some years it has been more and more evident to me that the proper housing of the people is the most urgent reform which is necessary ; that to properly house the nation would, at a moderate estimate, decrease the infantile mortality by more than half ; decrease the number of infectious diseases by three-fourths ; sweep away nearly all the anæmic, undersized, scrofulous beings who crowd our slums ; almost stamp out tuberculosis ; do very much at one stroke to elevate the moral and mental refinement of the bulk of the people, and lessen the need for Workhouses, Prisons, Asylums, Sanatoria, Epileptic Colonies, and Hospitals of all kinds, to a very great extent.

Why are the people so badly housed ? Why are there slums in all our towns, aye, and in most country villages too ? And why don't the Sanitary Authorities deal with them, and hunt the poor wretches who are compelled to live in the lowest class of property, out of it ? And why don't they condemn these slums ?

To answer these questions it is necessary to define a slum, and a slum is simply an overcrowded house or area. Suppose Eaton Hall or Buckingham Palace capable of accommodating 500 persons, and 5 times that number are compelled to live in them ; slums they would soon be—and bad ones at that.

The retort which naturally arises is, “ Why do people crowd into these poor thickly placed houses ? ” The answer to which is, because they must have a roof of some kind over their heads, and they take the best they can afford. That is why there are slums, that is why they are so badly housed, and that also is why the Sanitary Authorities are paralysed and cannot deal with them. If they are hunted out of one court or alley they must swarm into another, or else remain in the street.

Is it necessary to say more to show how impossible it is to deal with slums, until better houses are supplied to which the slum-dwellers may go ?

We must admit that there are slums, and nobody will deny that there might not be slums ; but what is the remedy ? It is, firstly, to reform existing houses ; secondly, to check the erection of slums by the jerry builder, and lastly, to provide houses of a proper character for those who need them. Private enterprise has utterly failed to house the people ; public organizations must undertake it, and the preliminary step is to acquire land upon which houses may be built in a proper manner ; who builds them is immaterial, if only the Sanitary Authority will get adequate room for them to be put, and supervise the manner in which they are put. It would not be difficult to get houses built by other people, with the municipality for landlord. The subject is a very large one, and a very pressing one, and might well be discussed by a strong Committee of Enquiry, as to the methods which have been suggested in other places.

Factories and Workshops.--There has been considerable improvement in the supervision of workshops this year, but the additional work taxes the Sanitary officials rather heavily.

The total number on the register is 184, of which 151 are workshops. These latter are composed of different classes as set forth in 4 of the Tables relating to Factories, &c., which is appended ; and also of 25 factories, 11 plumbers, 11 joiners and saddlers, jewellers, stone-cutters, cabinet-makers, &c., &c.

There are no underground bakehouses, and the large increase in factories is accounted for by the selection of motive power in butchers' shops for driving mincing machines, 1 h.p. electric motors being chiefly used ; in cab yards for chopping hay and grinding corn, and in joiners' shops, &c., for sawing timber, &c., &c.

The sanitary defects found and remedied are fully set forth in the Table and the text of the Inspector's Report.

The lists of outworkers were only revised once in the year, as the result of advertisements in the papers, and as the result mostly of personal visitations by the Inspector and Medical Officer of Health.

The number of lists being 19 and the workers 17 is, of course, because the homeworkers' names in some instances occur upon more than one list.

HENRY EDWARD GOUGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 5th, 1907.

TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		* DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents reg- istered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births regis- tered.	Number	Rate.				Number	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1896	17,800	685	38'1	117	170	327	18'2	32	15	2	314	17'6
1897	18,100	718	39'1	133	182	368	20'2	29	14	...	354	19'5
1898	18,300	650	35'5	124	187	380	20'2	49	22	1	359	19'6
1899	18,500	531	28'6	115	214	372	20'1	45	16	1	357	19'2
1900	18,820	593	31'5	92	155	308	16'3	35	11	1	298	15'8
1901	17,681	560	31'6	128	228	387	21'8	45	34	11	364	20'5
1902	17,950	546	30'4	71	130	270	15'0	42	15	...	285	15'8
1903	18,220	548	30'0	82	149	293	16'1	29	18	1	276	15'1
1904	18,500	522	28'2	85	162	283	15'2	26	16	3	270	14'5
1905	18,750	519	27'6	60	115	253	13'4	41	15	6	244	13'0
Averages for years 1896-1906.	18,262	607	31'8	100	179	3231	17'5	37	17	...	312	17
1906	19,000	520	27'3	72	140	256	13'4	36	14	2	244	12.8

*Rates in columns 4, 8 and 13, calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1,758.

Total population at all ages, 17,608.
Number of inhabited houses, 3,565.
Average number of persons per house, 4'9.

At Census
of
1901.

Institutions within the District receiving
sick and infirm persons from
outside the District

Institutions outside the District receiving
sick and infirm persons from
the District

Victoria Infirmary, Northwich.
Union Workhouse, Northwich.

Royal Infirmary, Manchester.
Isolation Hospital at Leftwich.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1906.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT. H.W.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.						NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.						
	At all Ages	AT AGES—YEARS.					1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.													
						65 and up- wards.							NORTHWICH URBAN DISTRICT.						
Small-pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	49	...	19	22	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	10	1	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever.....	33	...	9	23	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	5	...	...	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	98	1	28	47	5	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1906.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).						DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	URBAN DISTRICT.	WORKHOUSE.	INFIRMARY.				
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	16
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup	7	1	4	2	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other continued .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa	22	19	3	..	..	..	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	9	7	2	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other septic diseases	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	1
Phthisis	13	..	..	2	4	7	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other tubercular diseases ..	9	4	2	2	1	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease ..	13	..	..	..	..	10	3	11	2	..	..	..	..	2
Bronchitis	16	4	1	..	..	3	8	16	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pneumonia	23	5	4	..	4	8	2	22	1	..	..	..	..	1
Pleurisy	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Other diseases of respira- tory organs	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of liver	4	..	..	..	..	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal diseases	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth	8	8	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and accidents of) Parturition	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1
Heart diseases	16	..	..	1	2	10	3	12	3	1	..	..	..	6
Accidents	5	..	1	..	2	2	..	3	..	2	..	..	..	2
Suicides	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Old Age	29	..	..	..	..	..	29	22	7	..	..	..	..	9
Convulsions	7	5	2	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marasmus	11	10	1	..	..	..	..	10	1	..	..	..	..	1
All other causes	46	6	1	..	1	29	9	40	6	..	..	..	..	9
All causes	256	73	23	7	15	80	58	230	21	5	..	..	..	36

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1906.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
ALL CAUSES:																	
Certified	10	3	7	..	20	12	5	7	8	6	4	3	2	..	2	3	72
Uncertified .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Infectious Diseases:																	
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria : Croup..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	2
Diarrhœal Diseases:																	
Diarrhœa, all forms..	..	..	I	..	I	6	I	I	5	I	I	..	I	..	I	I	19
Enteritis, Muco do.,	..	..	I	..	I	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Gastro do. ....	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	I	4
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh)	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	I	4
Wasting Diseases:																	
Premature Birth	5	..	3	..	7	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Congenital Defects ..	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I
Injury at Birth	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Want of Breast-milk ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Atrophy, Debility,)	..	I	I	..	2	2	I	2	..	I	I	I	..	..	..	..	10
Marasmus .....	..	I	I	..	2	2	I	2	..	I	I	I	..	..	..	..	10
Tuberculous Diseases:																	
Tuberculous )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	I
Meningitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Peri- )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
tonitis : Tabes )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Mesenterica ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I
Diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes:																	
Erysipelas .....	..	I	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I
Syphilis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(not Tuberculous) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions	I	I	..	..	2	..	I	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Bronchitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	3
Laryngitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	I	I	I	..	I	..	5
Suffocation, over- )	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
laying .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes	I	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I
	10	3	7	..	20	12	5	7	8	6	4	3	2	..	2	3	72

District of Northwich Urban.

Population Estimated to middle of 1906—19,000.

Births in the year { legitimate—491. Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants—62.
 { illegitimate—29. { illegitimate infants—10.
Deaths from all Causes at all Ages—244.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE I.—BIRTHS, 1905.

	Males.	Females.	Totals for Quarters.	Rate per Thousand.	No. of Illegitimate Births.
1st Quarter	63	70	133	28.0	7—3 M., 4 F.
2nd	70	80	150	31.5	8—4 M., 4 F.
3rd	72	60	132	27.7	8—5 M., 3 F.
4th	48	57	105	22.1	6—1 M., 5 F.
For whole year	253	267	520	27.3	29—13 M., 16 F. 5.5% of Births.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE II.—DEATHS.

	1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.		Totals for Year.	Rate.
	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Per Thousand.
Whole District.	56	11.7	43	9.0	78	16.4	79	16.5	256	13.4

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries).	25	..	..
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries).	151	..	..
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report).	8	..	..
Total	184	..	..

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	5	5	..	..
Want of ventilation	2	2	..	..
Overcrowding	1	1	..	..
Want of drainage of floors	3	3	..	..
Other nuisances	15	15	..	..
†Sanitary Accommodations {	insufficient .. .. .	..	..	..
	unsuitable or defective ..	2	2	..
	not separate for sexes ..	..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (S. 101) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100). ..	..	..	..	..
Failure as regard lists of outworkers (S. 107)	..	..	..	..
Giving out work to { be done in premises {	unwholesome (S. 108)	..	..	..
	which are { infected (S. 110) ..	..	..	..
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or smallpox (S. 109) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other offences .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Total	28	28	..	..

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

†For districts not in London state here whether Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the District Council; and if so, what standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops has been enforced. Adopted, but no standard fixed.

Class.										Number.			
<i>Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :</i>													
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshops Act (S. 133)										0			
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 5)										4			
Other .. .. .										....
<i>Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :</i>													
Certificates granted during the year .. .. .										....
In use at the end of the year										0			
Number of													
Homework :										Lists.		Out-workers.	
<i>List of Outworkers* (S. 107) :</i>										19		17	
Addresses of Outworkers {										1		1	
forwarded to other Authorities ..													
received from other Authorities ..													
<i>Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :</i>										Wearing Apparel.		Other.	
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (S. 108)										1		..	
Number of Inspections of homeworkers' premises										23		..	
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (S. 110) ..										..		..
<i>Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of the year :</i>													
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.										17			
										23			
										12			
										19			
										9			
										10			
										90			
Total number of workshops on Register										151			

* The Lists should be received twice in the year. The year's figures required in the Table are then obtained by adding together the two half-yearly totals.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,

NORTHWICH DISTRICT COUNCIL,

January 1st, 1907.

ANNUAL REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

In opening my Report for 1906, I have much pleasure in recording a good reduction in notifiable disease. The heavy rains of the last three months may have accounted for a large number of the cases of diphtheria. These cases have been of a very mild form, many of them not standing the bacteriological examination of Professor Delepine. Three took place in one family, and another one of the latter having proved fatal when the notification was received, the remaining four were removed to the Hospital at Leftwich, where they have been successfully treated.

The scavengers still continue to hold the high standard that has been attained during the past few years. This year the contractors have improved their record by removing the greater part of the trade refuse. The tradesmen have benefitted greatly, as there was no waste land for its deposit or destructor for its destruction, and the only course was for the scavengers to remove and destroy it on their tips. This has been done without increasing the cost of removal. During the year they have removed 6,360 loads of dry refuse, and 2,400 loads of excreta, the latter being removed outside the Council's district and used by the farmers as manure for the land.

The scavengers have received 150 notices from me for the removal of house refuse during the year; these have been attended to within a reasonable time of service. During the warm part of the year, many of the complaints received arose from the thoughtlessness of the people themselves, who will persist in depositing all kinds of offal in ashpits and other receptacles for dry ash, in place of burning it at once in their fire-places or stove. This class of offal becomes the breeding-beds for all kinds of bacilli, which are conveyed by the domestic pets to the inside of the house, and thus disease is spread.

I have supplied 153 new sanitary pails from the Council's stores, which have taken the place of old and leaky ones, or replaced old and defective cesspools which had become a nuisance.

Thirty-four legal notices have been served on property owners to abate nuisances and execute repairs. Most of these have been complied with without any friction, no legal proceedings having taken place to enforce any of the notices.

Thirty-nine letters have been written asking for the re-construction of defective and unsanitary property. These have all received the attention of the property owners, to the entire satisfaction of the Council.

Twenty-eight cesspools have been converted into the pail system, and the old cesspools filled up to the ground level, new floors of brick laid down, and the places roofed over, making a good covered-in ashpit. Many of these places had no ashpit previously.

Ten new pail closets, with ashpits connected, have been built where none previously existed. The property formerly had one closet to every two houses; they have now a closet and ashpit to each house. This is an improvement that cannot be too highly commended, and should be encouraged as much as possible.

Twenty-nine old and defective cesspools have been converted into the water carriage system, and the cesspools filled up, fifteen of them being made into ashpits.

Twenty-two closets have been pulled down and re-constructed on the pail system. The greater part of this work has been caused by subsidences. This does not include houses and closets that had to be abolished through subsidence.

Forty-three lengths of house drains have been opened, cleaned, and re-laid; sixteen of these have had new gully traps fixed, with ventilators attached. Many of the old D traps being out of order, stoneware gully traps take their place, as I find these old D traps are not proof against gas, therefore I always treat them as defective and deal with them accordingly.

Twenty-one manure heaps have been removed that had become a nuisance and dangerous to the neighbourhood where they existed. Some of these I had to report to the Council before my request was complied with.

Nine cases of filthy premises have been reported to the Council and dealt with, but this number does not include the places that have been visited and cleansed by the request of the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector.

Ten cases of overcrowding have been reported and dealt with. Notices had to be served in each of these cases. Sixteen other cases complied with the request of the Sanitary Inspector without a notice being served. Many of these families only leave one house to repeat the nuisance in another, and so have to be followed from house to house before the dangerous habit of overcrowding is stopped.

Untabulated nuisances abated. These cannot be recorded, as it is impossible to say how many cases have been carried out, as both the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector have some carried out daily.

Eighteen new washhouses have been constructed where none existed previously. Some of these have been carried out at the request of the Sanitary Inspector.

Twice was black smoke reported and the defaulters written to by order of the Council, the Council's request being complied with.

Six houses have been condemned as unfit for human habitation, and eleven houses pulled down through subsidence ; these places had become too dangerous to be inhabited.

Seventy-five new houses have been constructed, and most of these are on the water-carriage system, with ash-pits connected. The remainder are pail closets, but each house has a closet and ash-pit.

Dairies, cow-sheds, and milkshops have been visited during the year. Two cow-sheds were cleansed and lime-washed by request of the Inspector, one milkshop and one dairy lime-washed.

The slaughter houses have been visited at various periods during the year. The floor of one had to be taken up and re-laid, this was caused through subsidence ; two lime-washed, and one was ordered to be cleansed throughout. These places had to be reported to the Council, and in each case the order was carried out.

Several lodging-houses had to be reported to the Council and written to before the improvements would be carried out.

There are no canal boats plying on that part of the River Weaver under the jurisdiction of the Council. The whole are under the Merchants' Shipping Act.

There are 184 Factories and Workshops on the register. These have had my attention throughout the year, having been visited many times. Two have removed from the town, and three others have taken their places. Three new places have been registered, the remainder having escaped registration ; five have had their drains taken up and re-laid, one has been re-modelled on account of subsidence, one

had the back-yard taken up, levelled, the drains altered, and the whole re-laid. Two were ordered to have their places lime-washed throughout and painted, two were cautioned for the stoppage of the ventilators, and one for overcrowding. The remainder were found to be in good order. Diphtheria entered one, and the place had to be disinfected and cleansed. This was done without any friction.

The Food and Drugs Act has had my attention, as I have ordered the destruction of six boxes of fish, two baskets, in all about 60lbs., and one piece of beef, 10lb. This was done without being brought before the magistrates.

I have received 98 notifications of infectious disease during the year, as follows: Diphtheria 49, scarlatina, 33, erysipelas 10, typhoid 5, and puerperal fever 1. Small-pox has not visited the town during the year. Twenty of the above cases have been removed to the Leftwich Infectious Disease Hospital, where they have been successfully treated.

CHAS. POTTS,

Sanitary Inspector.